

ASSOCIATION of MIDWIVES of NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR



Newsletter No. 61, January 2013

Association of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador
(Chapters in Goose Bay and St. John's)
Newsletter 61
January 2013

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide opportunities for information sharing between midwives and to promote the profession of midwifery and the need for appropriate legislation so that midwives in Newfoundland and Labrador are publicly funded to provide evidence-based midwifery care for childbearing families in this province. (2005)

This issue contains the report of the January AMNL General Meeting and an update on the College of Midwives NL.

At the back of the Newsletter is a membership form for 2013. Fees for this year were due at the beginning of January. Being a member keeps you in the communication "loop" when there is any news to be shared.

The Newsletter editor welcomes midwifery news items, including about midwifery conferences and workshops. Those who submit items are responsible for obtaining permission to publish in our Newsletter. The Editor does not accept this responsibility. Items for the Newsletter should be submitted by the end of the month before it is due.

Pearl Herbert, Editor, (pherbert@mun.ca)

AMNL Annual General Meeting,

Monday, April 15, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. (Island time)

In St. John's this will be at the HSC.

In April contact Pearl for access pass code

Access is free from anywhere in Canada (advise me if there are problems entering the meeting)

Executive Committee

President: Ann Noseworthy

Secretary: Karene Tweedie

Treasurer: Pamela Browne

CAM representative: Ann Noseworthy

Newsletter Editor: Pearl Herbert

Web page: <http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~pherbert/>

Minute Recorder: Susan Felsberg

Cosigner: Susan Felsberg

Past President: Karene Tweedie

Newsletter in HSLibrary: WQ 160 N457n

Summary of the General Meeting, January 21, 2013

Numbers were down for this meeting but there were apologies from four members. There had been little feedback about the CAM conference so it was unknown if the social event made any money. Presentations may be viewed at: <http://www.cjmrp.com/conference2012/>

A suggestion was made that the original members of Friends of Midwifery be invited to an informal gathering to provide an update of the current situation regarding regulating midwifery. Karene Tweedie resigned her position as president of AMNL as she is going to be away for awhile. She is willing to continue being secretary. Nominations were requested for president and Ann Noseworthy was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations and so she was elected by acclamation, and this will be ratified at the annual general meeting.

A suggestion was made that AMNL buy its own Polycom telephone, as at the moment we have to rely on being able to borrow the speaker phone for this conference call.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting. Suggestions, resolutions, nominations to be given to either Pearl, the editor of this newsletter, or Ann at ann.noseworthy@gmail.com

One suggestion was that the AMNL membership fee be increased by \$10 each year. When midwifery is regulated, and if registered midwives should also be members of AMNL, then the Association will need to become incorporated and have a its own web site. This all costs money.

Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) (Ann Noseworthy, AMNL Rep to the CAM Board)

CAM has a new President, Joanna Nemrava took over from Anne Wilson on January 1, 2013.

Joanna Nemrava will serve as the CAM President from January 2013 to December 2014. She received her midwifery training through the Midwifery Education Program at the University of British Columbia. She now lives in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, where she is Head of the Department of Midwifery at Royal Inland Hospital and runs a community based midwifery clinic. Joanna is also a clinical educator for the UBC Midwifery Education Program since 2009.

CAM office - there are now 5 staff members. Executive Director, Tonia Occhionero; Admin assistant, Annie Hibbert, (5 days a week); Project Coordinator, Valerie Perrault, (4 days a week); Events coordinator, Jill DeWeese-Frank, (3 days a week); and Grants & Partnerships Advisor, Pauline Bondy (5 days a week). Eby Heller has gone on Maternity Leave as of January 18 and the new person is Valérie Perrault. She is a midwife with extensive experience in project coordination.

There are new NRP guidelines.

Emergency Skills. There is continued work on the national programme.

Federal Government Support. There has been approval to have a lobbyist in Ottawa in this year leading up to the CAM conference which will be in Ottawa November 6, 7, 8. The hope is that this person will further the aims of Midwifery at the Federal level, find federal support. Right now CAM has yet to find a supporter in the current government with the goal eventually of getting a federal job description for "midwife".

Policies. A new policy/procedure for orientation of new board members has been drawn up to help make the transition easier. Other Board policies and by laws continue to be reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure their clarity.

There is new wording of the policy for funding for attendance at Board intensives and AGM.

Regions where there may be economic hardship can apply to the Executive Director Tonia.

Conference 2012. All targets were met and there was some good feedback about all sessions. It has been recognised that keeping to time was a problem and some things like the layout for coffee and distance from session rooms may have made things more difficult.

Choice. Access. Midwives.

Campaign for 2013. Three board members have taken on the job of working on this campaign for the coming year beginning in May. The three key messages of the campaign will remain the same and they will look at how they can use the I AM A MIDWIFE video done during conference. A proposal is to be presented at the next CAM meeting January 31, 2013.

Regulating Midwifery under the Health Professions Act 2010

There have been a few changes in the membership of the Council of Health Professionals (Council). Those who were originally appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services in July 2011 have not always become the Chairperson of the professional College established, once the profession is regulated. The Health Professions Act (Act) requires the chairperson and one other elected person to represent that profession on the Council. So far, of the seven professions listed in the Schedule attached to the Act three professions have been regulated and three (Dental Hygienists, Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologist) expect to be regulated in the next two or three months. This will leave just midwifery that does not yet have written regulations.

As may be remembered, at the September 2010 meeting of the AMNL, Pearl Herbert was nominated as Chair of the College and Karene Tweedie as Vice Chair. Pearl and Kay Matthews were nominated to be the names to be recommended to the Minister to represent midwives on the Council. (Karene was out of the province at that time.) In August 2011 Pearl and Kay were told that they had been accepted to be on the Council. There were 12 elected members, accepted by the Minister, to represent the 6 professional Colleges (Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists combined to form one College) and 6 public members appointed by the Minister. The first meeting of the Council was September 2011. The Council was given the task of setting itself up to be in accordance with the Act. To form the committees required in the Act, to develop By-Laws, employ a registrar and enable the seven professions to become regulated.

In June 2012, Louise Jones was hired by members of the Council as Registrar. Since then there has been much work as more than 600 professionals have been registered, and many policies written and accepted. There are many more applicants to be registered in the near future and more policies are needed. The Finance and Human Resources Committee has now agreed to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant/Deputy Registrar, Cindy Holden, as from January 28, for the next six months. Cindy was an appointed member of Council representing Dental Hygienists, and has been on the Quality Assurance Committee of the Council.

On January 26, 2013, the Council met for a face-to-face meeting. Not all members were able to be present but it did provide an opportunity to meet the new members. The subject for discussion was section 7 of the Act. This section deals with the objectives of the Council. Facilitated by Pat Pilgrim there were discussions by all of the 10 members present, and group discussions, on how the requirements can be put fully into effect within a two year time line. Some examples are; The Council supports the quality and safety of health services that includes mandatory continuing education, and the Colleges to have Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.

The Council enhances public protection that includes a practice audit process, public protection, information for the public and a website to provide information. www.nlchp.ca

The Council to improve patient safety and strengthen the regulatory system that includes a financial budget, annual meetings, and regular meetings.

The Council facilitates patient-centred inter-professional collaboration and care that includes the need for members to partner with others.

The Council and the Colleges regulate professional practice and govern members according to the Act. The main aim is to protect the public. Neither the Council nor the Colleges may advocate for a profession. This is why there is a need for an Association, such as AMNL, and for an advocacy group such as Friends of Midwifery. The Association looks after the members.

All the Colleges of the professions listed in the Schedule, including the College of Midwives, have to submit their annual report by January 31 (see the Act, 29.2). The report of the College of Midwives has been submitted.

The College needs a web site (see the Act, 30.1) but with no money this is not obtainable at present. A Department at MUN was approached but this idea was over ruled by the Dean.

The provincial government is discussing a contract with McMaster University for two consultants (Karyn Kaufman (Professor Emeritus, Departments of Family Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Assistant Dean (retired), Midwifery Education Program, and Helen McDonald, associate professor of midwifery at McMaster University.) The Government of NL has given them the documents from the Midwifery Implementation Committee (1999-2001) and we will give them the updated guidelines from 2010.

Liability Insurance

At the end of last year a local insurance agent kindly searched for liability insurance providers for midwives but found that “every insurance market that we approached was unable to provide terms for midwifery in NL.” At least eight insurance companies / brokers were contacted and they all declined this risk/program, and were “not a market for this class of risk.”

This leaves Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC) as the insurer, but in the past the provincial government asked us to look for another insurer, although HIROC insures the majority of midwives in Canada. Without a group to hold the HIROC policy midwives would need to be employees of the regional health authorities.

See HIROC for *Joint Statement on Liability Protection for Midwives and Physicians*

<http://www.hiroc.com/HIROC/media/documents/HIROC-joint-statement-on-liability-protection-for-midwives-and-physicians-ENGLISH.pdf>

The latest news, February 5, is that CAM has contacted HIROC regarding the possibility of the National Association offering professional liability insurance to provinces/territories, as is done by some national professional associations for other insurances.

Note: There is no reciprocity of insurance for midwives practicing in Canada with the insurer of the UK Royal College of Midwives.

Social Communication

Although it is recognized that media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc., are good ways of sharing information, at present the few AMNL members residing in the province do not have the time to update and monitor such methods. There need to be constant messages to keep such sites alive.

Information

Canadian Hospitals Maternity Policies and Practices Survey report

CPSS-SCSP@phac-aspc.gc.ca

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/rhs-ssg/chmpps-eppmhc-2012-eng.php>

National Conference FASD Throughout the Lifespan and FACE Research Roundtable September 5-7, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel, St. John's.

<http://www.neurodevnet.ca/news/call-proposals-fasd-throughout-lifespan-and-face-research-roundtable-sept-5-7-2013>

ASSOCIATION OF MIDWIVES OF NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
2013

Name: _____
(Print) (Surname) (First Name)

All Qualifications: _____

Full Address: _____

Postal code: _____ Telephone No. _____

(home)

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____
(work)

E-mail Address: _____

Work Address: _____

Area where working: _____

Retired: _____ Student: _____ Unemployed: _____

List of Organizations of which you are a member (the Association receives requests from various organizations for representatives to review articles, attend conferences, be on committees). Your name would not be forwarded without your consent.

Provincial: _____

National: _____

International: _____

Would be interested in participating in a research project if asked: Yes _____ No _____

For midwives who pay \$75.00 (\$20.00 AMNL membership fee and \$55.00 CAM membership fee):

If you do not agree to your address, postal and Internet, being released to CAM tick here: No release: _____

I wish to be a member of the Association of Midwives and I enclose a cheque/money order from the post office

for: \$ _____

(Cheques/money orders only (no cash) made payable to the Association of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador).
Membership and financial year from January 1 to December 31.

To be a member of AMNL and receive the electronic quarterly AMNL newsletter **\$20.00**

For AMNL members also to be members of Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) add **\$55.00 (Total \$75.00)**
[\$75.00 includes AMNL membership and CAM membership, including the 4-monthly CAM research/practice journal.]

Membership for those who are residing outside of Canada **\$20.00**. Correspondence will be by e-mail.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Return to: Pamela Browne, Treasurer, Box 1028, Stn. C, HVGB, Labrador, NL, A0P 1C0

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